

County Clips



Spotlight on:

Contra Costa County's
Northern Waterfront Development

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Spring Edition 2014

Message from Supervisor Mitchoff



Each new year offers many opportunities for the Board of Supervisors to better the lives of Contra Costa County residents. It also presents more challenges than we would wish for, but I can assure our constituents and our dedicated county staff that we are up to the task and invite everyone's participation as we all work together to maintain fiscal strength and provide high-quality services.

Sometimes, opportunities and challenges appear in the same situation, although the challenge comes first and then transforms in to an opportunity. Among the most pressing policy challenges we face is water policy.

Much of our recent news has been dominated by California's drought, but what has not been getting sufficient attention in the coverage is that our Delta is once again under threat in the form of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). The BDCP has been in the development stages for several years but now is ready for review as the Draft

EIR was released just before the holidays. Comments to the document are to be made in the next several months, and the belief is the EIR will be certified and the plan ready to move forward soon after that.

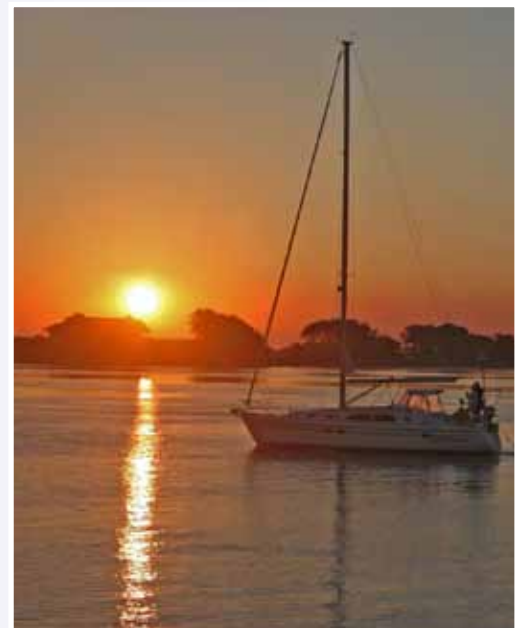
Our grave concerns with the BDCP are a continuation of battles fought over the past several decades with historic roots here in Contra Costa County. Former State Senator John Nejedly and former Supervisor Sunne Wright McPeak worked tirelessly to pass the referendum against the Peripheral Canal. Supervisor Piepho and I continue to represent our county's interests and concerns over today's project of underground tunnels and the attendant environmental and financial havoc of such a project.

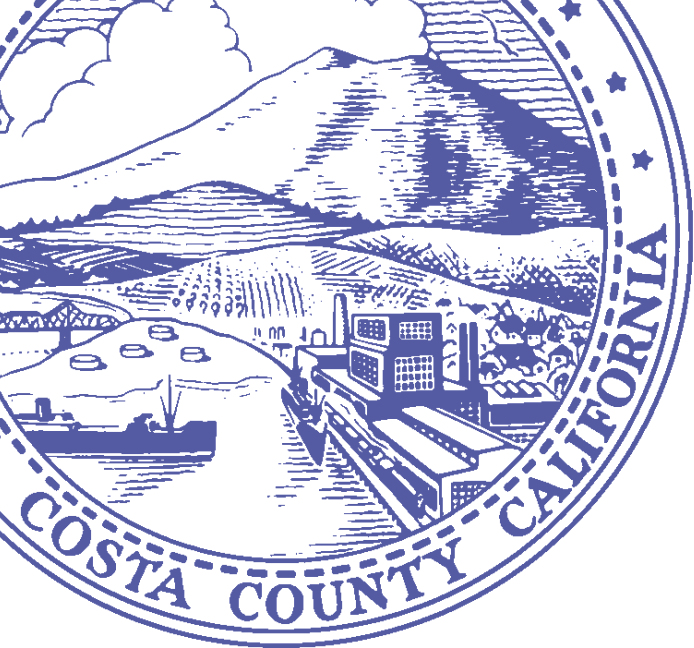
Contra Costa County, along with our sister Delta counties, supports a comprehensive water policy that serves all Californians while ensuring a healthy Delta ecosystem. One of the challenges we have worked to overcome for the past several years is the lack of a "seat at the table" when critical policy decisions were being made about how best to achieve the co-equal goals of restoring the Delta and providing adequate water resources for our state.

Two other challenges facing the county this year, under our current financial limitations, that will be highlighted in later editions of County Clips are (1) determining how to provide fire protection and emergency medical response through the Contra Costa Consolidated Fire Protection District without compromising public safety and (2) maintaining our excellent county workforce that is staffed by highly competent, trained and dedicated professionals who believe in public service.

Warmest regards,

Karen Mitchoff
Chair, Board of Supervisors





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Recommendations Please

County Clips is your employee newsletter. Please send us your comments, questions & suggestions.

You can contact us at (925) 313-1180 or email us at christine.wampler@contracostatv.org.

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Pittsburg Office Information:

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Spotlight on:

The County's Northern Waterfront Development

Revitalizing Contra Costa County's Northern Waterfront

Spanning 50 miles of shoreline from Hercules to Oakley, the Northern Waterfront of Contra Costa County is about to be re-imagined and rediscovered. More than 26,000 jobs are already linked to the waterfront property, and the region generates more than \$21.6 billion into our economy each year. A new report finds that there is even more potential for economic growth, with the best case for success relying upon strong public and private sector partnerships. An overflow crowd of nearly 400 civic and community leaders gathered in January to learn more about how to unlock the economic potential of the waterfront.

Supervisor Federal Glover presided over the public forum, and shared his vision for the region, which encompasses a large portion of the district he represents. "We are at the right time and place to begin the revitalization along the Northern Waterfront and share the dream of careers and a sustainable economy with our County's residents," stated Supervisor Glover, who brought the proposal to the County Board of Supervisors in January 2013. Supervisor Mary Nejedly Piepho's district also includes much of the water front property. She thanked Supervisor Glover for his tireless efforts in this arena, and told the audience, "It's about jobs, jobs, jobs."

She encouraged those in attendance to "actively embrace this proposal as representatives of business, communities, education, government, and industry in order to realize our County's economic potential."



Above: Mt. Diablo as a backdrop to the Shell Oil Refinery in Martinez

Left: Shipping Channel along the Northern Waterfront

Northern Waterfront Development

Carquinez bridges and channel at dusk

The Northern Waterfront has several unique features that, when viewed as a package, underscore the opportunities for the area to be competitive in a 21st century global economy. Those include a deep-water shipping channel, marine terminals, and two railroad lines. 60% of the County's land that has been designated for industrial use can be found within the 28,000 acres of the Northern Waterfront. Equally important is the human capital behind this effort. In

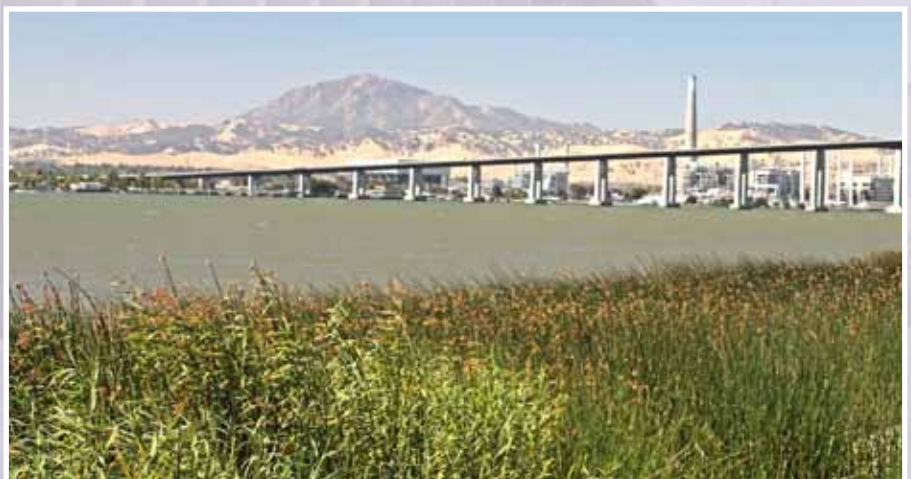
addition to the strong support of the County Board of Supervisors, local government and community leaders from the cities and towns along the waterfront are strongly backing the collaborative effort.

The next step will be a series of meetings to continue the planning process, to share additional information and support the development of joint resolutions for a collaborative Northern Waterfront Development Project. To stay engaged and keep up to date on this effort, visit the Northern Waterfront website at www.contracosta.ca.gov/4437/Northern-Waterfront-Economic-Development.



Above: Martinez train station

Right: Looking back at the Antioch bridge and shoreline



SAVE THE DATE



21st Annual Cesar E. Chavez Commemorative Celebration

Tuesday, April 1, 2014 • 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Board of Supervisors Chambers • 651 Pine Street, Room 107, Martinez

For more information, please contact Robin Lipetzky, Public Defender at (925) 335-8035
or Olga Rivera, Employment & Human Services at (510) 262-7765



New Evening Dental Clinics in Martinez and Pittsburg

Patients in need of emergency dental work now have more options for quick service, thanks to new evening dental clinics offered by Ambulatory Care. Patients can make appointments at the Martinez and Pittsburg clinics from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesdays, either on their own or through the Contra Costa Regional Medical Center's emergency department. Dr. Chiyo Shidara, who developed the program with support from Ambulatory Care Medical Director, Dr. Chris Farnitano, reports that the evening clinics have proven popular since their October inception. The clinics should also help accommodate more patients in 2014 due to the adult Denti-Cal expansion. "Our ambulatory teams, including our clerks, LVNs and dental providers, made this service happen in a very short term. I am so grateful to all," Dr. Shidara said.



Dr. Nick Cavallaro is the dentist on duty at the new evening dental clinic in Martinez.

Telephone Consultation Clinic Wins Top Honors

The Telephone Consultation Clinic (TCC), an innovative service being delivered to patients through a partnership between Contra Costa Regional Medical Center & Health Centers and the Contra Costa Health Plan Advice Nurse unit, won top honor in the 2013 Quality Leaders Awards. The Quality Leaders Awards, which are given by the California Association of Public Hospitals & Health Systems and the Safety Net Institute, recognize innovative and creative system improvements in California public hospitals and health systems. About 75% of patients who are referred to the TCC have their needs met without an in-person visit. The way the TCC works is a patient calls into the Advice Nurse line and an on-duty nurse determines whether the patient is eligible for a phone consultation with a physician or family nurse practitioner. LVNs and support staff from the Advice Nurse unit make follow-up calls to patients to gauge their satisfaction with the TCC service. The TCC enjoys a 98.5% patient satisfaction rate. The TCC began as a limited pilot in late 2011 and was expanded to a seven day a week service at the beginning of this year.



At the TCC, advice nurses like Diane Shouse determine if a patient is eligible for a phone consultation with a doctor or family nurse practitioner

For more information about the TCC, visit www.cchealth.org/medicalcenter/culture.

H1N1 Dominant Strain this Flu Season

It has been a busy flu season. In Contra Costa County, there have been several reported cases of people under 65 years of age who have been hospitalized in an ICU with flu and six deaths related to flu. The H1N1 virus is the most common flu virus this season so far and H1N1-related fatalities in Contra Costa and other Bay Area counties has drawn widespread coverage in the news media and highlight the need for vaccinations. H1N1 tends to affect young and middle-aged adults more than the elderly. Our Communicable Disease staff has stressed that getting vaccinated is the most effective way to avoid getting sick with the flu.

H1N1 first appeared in 2009 and public health officials worldwide collaborated to combat what was then a novel strain of influenza. Since then, the annual flu vaccine—including this year's vaccine—has contained protection against H1N1 and community immunity has grown. Our Public Health Immunization Clinics saw an increase in demand for flu shots during the peak of the season and more staff members were added to meet the additional volume. Flu season in California can run through March.

Increase in demand for flu shots this year



A boy gets his flu shot at the Pittsburg Health Center



San Pablo Police Officer Frank Perino holds one of the new life-saving AEDs now contained in all of the city's patrol cars.

San Pablo Police Add AEDs to Patrol Cars

Every police car in San Pablo now carries an automated external defibrillator (AED)—and officers have been trained to save lives with them—thanks to a new partnership between fire, police and health officials. Contra Costa County Fire Protection District donated 22 AEDs to the police department in December after receiving a federal grant to buy new devices for its engines. The defibrillators came straight off the fire engines and into San Pablo police cars, except for one kept in the police department lobby. Our Emergency Medical Services

(EMS) Division helped coordinate the donation, and also helped train San Pablo officers in the use of the devices. The new capability could help save lives in San Pablo, as police often arrive at the scene of medical emergencies ahead of fire engines or ambulances. “Early access to the patient, defibrillation and CPR are critical to the chain of survival for cardiac arrest patients,” said Brian Henricksen, pre-hospital care coordinator for Contra Costa EMS.

New Glove Requirement for Food Workers Handling Ready-to-Eat Products

The Environmental Health Division is educating local retail food facilities about a new state law prohibiting workers from touching “ready-to-eat” foods with their bare hands. The law provides additional protection against the spread of diseases from food-service workers to consumers. Two-thirds of food borne illness outbreaks in the United States are from foods contaminated by sick food-service employees. Under the new rules, food-service workers must use food-grade disposable gloves, tongs, scoops or other means to avoid direct hand contact with ready-to-eat foods that are not cooked or reheated before serving. Examples of ready-to-eat foods include baked goods, salads, sandwiches and sushi. Environmental Health Director Marilyn Underwood said health inspectors will inform business operators about the new rules during their first site visits in 2014 to help them come into compliance with the new law. Environmental Health has also posted answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) on its main webpage.

To learn more about the new food-handling rules, you can read the FAQs at www.cchealth.org/eh.



Food workers now must use gloves, tongs or other means to avoid direct contact with ready-to-eat foods like doughnuts



Above: Contra Costa County's new Website.

Right: 2008-2013 version

County Website Shifts Gears

The County's new website was published on Friday, February 28, and within minutes, staff members were busy updating pages and getting used to the new editing system. The County partners with a vendor, CivicPlus, that provides a content management system used by cities, counties and special districts throughout the country. The benefit of a content management system is that it simplifies creating web pages so that you don't need IT skills to improve your digital presence. Contra Costa County began working with CivicPlus 6 years ago, and the editing tools used since the site launched in 2008 will soon no longer be supported. In addition to a “back end” overhaul, the pages themselves got a bit of a facelift. County workers will be able to tap into statistical reports that can tell us what specific information the public is trying to find on our pages, and which sections get the most views. That will help us reorganize our information in the way that meets the public's needs, rather than rely upon people to know what services and programs are provided by which department.

Another key factor for staff working on web pages

is the fact that more and more people are accessing our sites on phones and tablets, which changes the way we should present our information online. Although training was held in November for web editors, another round of in-person training will be coming the week of April 14th. If you are interested in attending, please contact Betsy Burkhart in the Office of Communication and Media at betsy.burkhart@contracostatv.org.

Valentine's Day Weddings

at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office

The Clerk-Recorder Department performed a record 46 marriage ceremonies on Valentine's Day – surpassing the record of 31 ceremonies that the office conducted in 2013. “We didn’t want to turn anyone away,” said Joe Canciamilla, County Clerk-Recorder. “We used the Elections’ lobby as an extra ceremony room to accommodate all of the couples.”

Mr. Canciamilla and the senior staff performed ceremonies throughout the day, in rooms decorated for the occasion. Mary Whatford, a 25 year veteran of the office, said “This is the first time in my experience that the ceremony rooms have been decorated. It’s great.” Second-hand arches were adorned with donated silk flowers and fabric to make the occasion extra special for the constant stream of couples that chose to be married at the Clerk-Recorder’s Office.

Main Street merchants contributed to the festivities by providing free samples and discount coupons which were presented to each couple in Valentine’s Day gift bags. Channel 7 News brought their cameras and interviewed staff and wedding parties. It was a festive day at the office. The final ceremony was performed shortly before 5 p.m., as staff waited for the return of a groom, who traveled back to Antioch to retrieve his bride-to-be’s identification. The ceremony rooms will remain decorated throughout the year, with an occasional color change of flowers to reflect the season.





It's Time to Prevent Yellowjackets before They Ruin Your Picnic

The calendar still says winter, but two particular species of wasps that have been known to ruin many a summer picnic will soon make a comeback. That's why the time is now to take the necessary steps to prevent these wasps – also known as yellowjackets.

Contra Costa County is home to four species of yellowjackets. Two species build nests above ground and two species are known as ground-nesting yellowjackets because they build nests in underground locations. The two underground species are the Western yellowjacket (*Vespula pennsylvanica*) and the common yellowjacket (*Vespula vulgaris*). During the winter months, the yellowjacket queen hibernates, and then during the warm days of late winter and early spring, she emerges to search for a location where she can build a new nest. This is the time to reduce the risk of yellowjackets by catching the queen in her tracks.

City	Predicted Last Freeze/Frost
Richmond	January 21-31
Orinda	February 1-10
Martinez	February 11-21
Brentwood	March 1-10
San Ramon	March 11-20
Danville	March 21-31
Majority of the county's immediate shoreline	April 1-10

The rule of thumb is that the queen makes her rare appearance after the last hard freeze or frost of winter, however, in Contra Costa County, this can be difficult to predict due to the county's diverse geography and temperatures. [The Old Farmer's Almanac](#) divides the county into four basic regions: east, central, west, and south and predicts the last frost accordingly. Another [interactive map](#) provides more specific predictions based on each individual city.

When the queen emerges, she searches for an abandoned rodent burrow, debris pile, firewood stack, tree stump or a void created by roots underground. Once in the location, she creates a small paper nest in which she initially lays an average of 30-50 eggs. Within a month, those eggs have developed into young yellowjackets ready and willing to help the queen feed the growing colony. As the queen continues to lay eggs, the colony grows quickly. By the time humans start to see large numbers of yellowjackets invading picnics and other outdoor activities, the average colony has about 5,000 of them.

To prevent the queen from building such a large colony, the Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District recommends residents hang a yellowjacket trap to catch the queen while she is searching for her nest location. Traps can be purchased at most home and garden stores. The key is to be sure to use the attractant that is sold with or near the trap. The attractant does not kill the yellowjacket; it lures the queen into the trap from which she cannot exit. And if she cannot exit, she cannot create a colony comprised of thousands of yellowjackets.



To stop the yellowjacket queen, place the trap, which includes the attractant, outside at the time of the predicted last freeze or frost. The trap should be hung from a tree or fence that is away from doors or windows. To make the trap as inviting as possible, keep it out of direct sunlight and provide a cover over the trap to protect it from rain.

The Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District provides [free inspections and treatment](#) of [underground yellowjacket nests](#) because these two species are particularly aggressive. They sting and bite repeatedly to protect their nest. Their stings and bites are painful, but for someone who is allergic, they can also be dangerous. That is why it is important to act now, to catch the queen while she's on the move because once she finds her desired location, she typically stays put.

The window of opportunity is small, but with the reward of protecting this year's outdoor activities, it is worth the effort to try to stop the queen before she brings thousands of her closest friends to your summertime picnic.

36th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration



MLK Committee Chair, Glenn E. Howell

On January 21st, the Board of Supervisors held the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Celebration. Glenn E. Howell, Animal Services Director and MLK Committee Chair, introduced Board Chair Karen Mitchoff as Mistress of Ceremonies. Following remarks by Chair Mitchoff, a video about how the youth at the RYSE Center have been influenced by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was shown. Next, the audience was entertained by the smooth jazz sounds of The Danny Armstrong Quintet, featuring vocalist Faye Carol and saxophonist Joules Broussard.

Mr. Howell introduced the keynote speaker, Reverend Harry Louis Williams, II, who gave a speech entitled *Pursuit of the Dream, Which Way to the Promised Land?* He told of his inspiration

to travel to the south, including Memphis, TN, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had struggled for civil rights and been assassinated. The Reverend outlined many ways that our culture is still far from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "promised land" and encouraged those who have made gains because of the civil rights movement to help those who are behind them and in this way we can all reach "the promised land."



Right: Saxophonist Joules Broussard shows his talents

Left: Keynote speaker, Reverend Harry Louis Williams, II



CANDACE ANDERSEN
SUPERVISOR DISTRICT 8

36th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration Continued

Chair Mitchoff introduced the Student Humanitarian of the Year, Anand Kannappan. Anand is a junior at Dougherty Valley High School where he holds leadership roles in a number of student organizations. Outside of school he volunteers at John Muir Hospital, for Congressman Eric Swalwell and went on a trip to Mexico to help build houses for the homeless.

The Adult Humanitarian of the Year, Sister Ann Weltz, was also introduced by Chair Mitchoff. Sister Weltz has dedicated more than thirty years to the Bay Area Crisis Nursery in Concord which provides a safe haven for children in times of crisis. Sister Weltz relayed that her roots of charitable works go back to her mother's works in Martinez. Sister Weltz feels that the first Crisis Nursery was in her own childhood home where her mother fed anyone in need.

The presentation of the Humanitarian Awards was followed by more music from The Danny Armstrong Quintet and singing by Faye Carol.



Top Right Photos: Student Humanitarian of the Year receives award and Adult Humanitarian of the Year, Sister Ann Weltz shares her thoughts.

Above: The Danny Armstrong Quintet entertains the audience.

Right: Vocalist Faye Carol sings as the quintet plays.



The 2014 MLK Committee Members were: Glenn E. Howell, Chair; Betsy Burkhart; Vicki Carr; Tiffany Lennear; Vincent Manuel; Maceo Trotter; Derrick West; and Nancy Zandonella. The MLK Committee would like to give special thanks to the following sponsors: the Board of Supervisors; the Animal Services Department; the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors; the Human Resources Department; Contra Costa Television (CCTV); the Community Services Bureau; the Public Works Department; the Community Services Bureau (Child Nutrition Department); and the Martinez Police Department.

County Service Awards & Retirements with 20+ Years of Service*

Animal Services Department

Morales, Manuel E 20

Auditor-Controller

Campbell, David J 35

Conservation and Development

Kelly, Danielle S 25

Contra Costa County Fire District

Dick, Eugene E 25

Limrite, Steven J 25

Marquez, Hugh A 25

Peterson, Darin E 25

Smith Jr, Robert E 25

Sonsteng, Richard J 25

Steffen, Andrew J 25

County Administrator's Office

Wright, Susan E 30

Anderson, Sabetha 20

Dept. of Child Support Services

Williams, Lois 35

Rasmussen, David A 25

Isip, Vincent S 20

Nielsen, Lisa 20

Olson, Jennifer A 20

Sheppard, Carolyn A 20

District Attorney's Office

McCormick, Kenneth W 25

Grassini, Stacey N 20

Employment & Human Services

Taylor-Edwards, Robyn 40

Erickson, Cynthia A 30

Negrete, Gloria 30

Anicete, Adelma B 25

Boylan, John K 25

Dupree, Nannette A 25

Ertmer, Gyrlenn M 25

Hanley, Blanca E 25

Jaime, Mercedes 25

Lee, La Jeune 25

Mulvihill, Megan 25

Nolden, Victoria J 25

Stewart-Terry, Lisa 25

Walls-Burns, Gayle D 25

Cabihi, Susan L 20

Castillo-Valladares, Carmen 20

Hunter, Renee R B 20

Middleton, Lynda 20

Monroy, Veronica 20

Pormento, Eric C 20

Redfern, Lisa A 20

Robinson, La Chawn 20

Health Services Department

Garcia, Laura E 35

Rubalcava, Yolanda 35

Harris, Margaret A 30

Hilbun, Susan V 30

Hubbard, Linda D 30

Health Services Department Cont.

McKinney, Derrell A 30

Conboy, Jeanne M 25

Douglas, Marvis 25

Estrada-Reyes, Linda M 25

Ghiya, Kalpana D 25

Gomez, Pamela G 25

Gonzalez, Livier A 25

Hellman-Wylie, Cynthia A 25

Hung-Fan, Melody Chui Ling 25

Mace, Phyllis A 25

Mikesell, Ann M 25

Miller, Jill A 25

Morgan, Lynn B 25

Rennaker, Tamera S 25

Ringue, Diane M 25

Shaw, Johnny L 25

Skrehot, Tresa R 25

Trujillo, Christopher A 25

Tucker, Denise R 25

Adams, Charlotte I 20

Borenstadt, Michael 20

Collins, Cindy J 20

Espinosa, Raphael P 20

Glasky, Jessica 20

Glatt, Patricia A 20

Hardman, Guy M 20

Hernandez, Maria T 20

Hoffe, Erika S 20

Jolton, Francine 20

Keathley, Janet A 20

Kirkpatrick, Betty J 20

Lee, Yong 20

Lisenko, Anne O 20

Malone, Wendy J 20

Marquez, Ronnie 20

McDonald, Toni K 20

Norwood, Karl K 20

Odonkor-Martey, Helena 20

Pizzo, Anthony 20

Rangel, Carolyn D 20

Roth, Anna M 20

Salvo-Donnelly, Gigi M 20

Smith, Darryl 20

Smith, Judith A 20

Stater, Gary E 20

Tate, Trent 20

Taylor, Kelley 20

Tomasulo, Michele 20

Watson, Vickie L 20

Human Resources Department

Wimberly, Sandra E 25

Library

Hayes, Judith E 30

Jew, Diana L 25

Biglow, Jenna K 20

Calonge, Robin T 20

Imada-Delgado, Adrienne 20

Kostolny, Cynthia M 20

Probation Department

Ramirez, Barbara 30

Cline, Patricia C 25

Henley, David A 25

Hibbard, Suzanne R 25

Martell, Theodore S 25

Alexander, Christine L 20

Cerda, Todd M 20

Lewis, Matthew F 20

Martell, Kimberly D 20

Public Defender's Office

Melton, Laurie A 25

Scofield, Cynthia 20

Public Works Department

Cutaia, Jeffrey 35

Cordova, Lorraine 30

Giles, Patrick L 30

Pitau, John M 30

Stevens, Margaret R 30

Emigh, Kevin L 25

Finch, Henry M 25

Marzette, Steven K 25

Wein, Nancy C 25

Wiseman, Dwayne 25

Hill, Ernest C 20

Retirement Office

Mendoza, Nannette 25

Kutrowski, Bozena J 20

Sheriff's Office

Phillips, Sheena D 35

Cruse, Celeste C 25

Crews, Denise C 25

Drew, Michelle A 25

Chelini, Keith V 20

Forsyth, Timothy D 20

Kalinowski, Brian E 20

Kelly, Shannon F 20

Mitchell, Vivian D 20

Pichon, Vicki L 20

Price, Michele L 20

Reed, Tony M 20

Van Hook, Tiffany C 20

White, Troy 20

Retirements July - December 2013

Contra Costa County Fire District

Terry Buck 30

Employment & Human Services

Jason Phipps 24

Kathie Doty 22

Library

Paula Thompson 23+

Robin Calonge 20+

Public Works Department

Eduardo Martinez 28

*Information as reported to County Clips by departments. All departments were invited to submit recent retiree information, some departments may not have done so.

Upper Sand Creek Basin



*APWA's 2014 Manager of the Year
Carl J. Roner*

Top Honors for the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District!

The District is being honored by the American Public Works Association (APWA) for two projects, one that was the result of an emergency, and the other the result of innovative planning. In addition, Project Manager Carl Roner has been recognized as APWA's Manager of the Year.

In the category of Disaster or Emergency Construction/Repair, the District won for quick thinking and quick work. The project started when an alert Public Works maintenance supervisor noticed a hole in the road shoulder of Marsh Creek Road. Upon further inspection, it became evident that there was a large cavern under at least one lane of traffic. The Public Works team mobilized and put into action a road closure plan, sent out press releases to inform commuters of the traffic impacts, and setup the road closure in time for the evening commute. Our field crews provided traffic control at the site all night long until steel trench plates were installed the next day to bridge the sinkhole and allow traffic to drive through safely. Our in-house engineering staff worked closely with our Environmental group to survey the work site to assess potential environment impacts of the project and to contact regulatory agencies to get the necessary permissions to make repairs. Engineering staff also worked with an on-call contractor who ultimately made the repairs in a timely manner.



Above: Marsh Creek Road shoulder hole and repair

Landing Project of the Year honors in the Environmental Category, the District is being recognized for the extraordinary work on Upper Sand Creek Basin, a flood retention basin constructed in Antioch. The primary purposes of the basin are:

- To reduce flooding in the communities of Brentwood, Oakley, and Knightsen
- Provide habitat restoration
- Offer new options for community recreation
- Enhance water quality and capture of trash in the waterways

A video highlighting the construction and restoration of the basin can be found by searching YouTube for Upper Sand Creek Basin, or at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGoc7BTI-mA>

Carl J. Roner, the Project Manager for the basin construction, also received APWA's 2014 Manager of the Year, Engineering and Technology for his work on creating a volunteer nursery to supply more than 400 native trees and shrubs for site restoration. Prior to the start of construction, many of the native plants to the area were gathered from the site, and nurtured in a makeshift nursery on the grounds of the Public Works/Flood Control offices off of Glacier Road. The restoration plants were selected with great care to ensure the best "restart" for the native plants to survive and thrive upon replanting into the basin on March 8. Carl's vision to go well beyond the project requirements set in motion not only a restoration of the property, but an enhancement that will benefit area residents and the environment for decades to come.

Congratulations to all of the American Public Works Association winners from Contra Costa County!